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A Library

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A LIBRARY

SUNICA JASAROVIC

Chicago Studio / James Spiller / Spring 2011

The Stuart Dybek Special Collections Public Library Annex is situated in a barrio in Pilsen, Chicago. I raised the whole library to the second floor, leaving the ground floor as public space for the community. The ground level provides a relief in the urban density. From the exterior the daylight pierces through the building and at night the underbelly would be illuminated, intergrading the library and the space below. These wells funnel light from the roof through books stacks and down to the entrances on the ground level, also through a central reading space down to the outdoor community space, connecting the more intimate moments of the library with the social ones it provides. The idea was to feel isolated with the books, though to be isolated can also be a vulnerable feeling, exposing you to the whole. The skeletal structure is bold in contrast to the intimacy of the library, glazed with waffle grid louvers. However, the morphing of the grid pattern signals to the users where the differing public and more intimate spaces of the building are. Also the louvers on the façade are four feet deep to protect the interior visually from an over lit reading environment, again the exterior expression translates and enhances into the smaller moments. A pistachio shell model was a study of form for the library. It helped me use modular units to understand where windows would be with respect to the morphing grid. This grid came to be a representation of the Chicago urban planning scheme, and represents moments inside the library that are important to the community.